

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated November 22, 2005. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments. Also enclosed, is a Terminal Disclaimer linking the term and ownership of any patent granted on the present application to that of co-pending USSN 10/760,254.

Amendments

The description has been amended at page 9 to address typographical errors.

Claim 2 has been amended to address the antecedent issue identified by the Examiner.

Accordingly, the amendments do not add any new matter.

35 U.S.C. §112 - Claim 3

Claim 3 has been amended such that it now depends from claim 2. The 'second electrical connectors' have a clear antecedent in claim 2.

35 U.S.C. §102 - Claims 1 to 4

Claims 1 to 4 stand rejected for lack of novelty in light of US 6,557,976 to McElfresh. The Applicant disagrees.

The McElfresh printhead clearly has its power and data contacts located on its sides rather than its ends. At col. 5, ll. 48-51, the electrical contacts 68 are described as being disposed on the 'side' of the carrier. Furthermore, the stepped surfaces extending between the sides are described as ends of the printhead assembly at col. 4, ll. 52-53. The stepped configuration allows multiple printhead assemblies to be placed end-to-end. This effectively precludes the data and power contacts from being disposed on the ends of the McElfresh printhead.

By positioning the electrical contacts at an end of the pagewidth printhead, the force needed to maintain the electrical connection is directed down the longitudinal axis of the printhead. Placing the contacts on the side of the printhead would direct the contact force laterally and tend to bow and deflect the printhead. The structural rigidity needed to keep deflection to an acceptable minimum requires the printhead to have a certain thickness and or the use of stiffer materials. This adds to the overall size and cost of the printer.

In light of the above, the cited reference does not disclose a printhead with all the elements of independent claims 1 or 4. Therefore, McElfresh fails to anticipate the invention defined by any of claims 1 to 4.

Non-Statutory Double Patenting

The enclosed Terminal Disclaimer links the term and ownership of any patent granted on the present application to that of co-pending USSN 10/760,254. The Applicant submits that this avoids any unjust timewise extension of patent rights or harassment from multiple assignees.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favourable reconsideration of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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